

Abstract

This invention provides a novel metalloprotease
having an aggrecanase activity which causes joint diseases,
a gene coding for this metalloprotease, a promoter of the
5 above metalloprotease, a method for screening a drug with
the use of the above metalloprotease and a pharmaceutical
composition for inhibiting degradation of proteoglycans,
which comprises as the active ingredient a substance
capable of inhibiting the aggrecanase activity of the above
10 metalloprotease.

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